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REPORT NO. 9-62

INFORMATION FROM
FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

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SOURCE Prace

NORTH KOREAN PEOPLE'S ARMY GRANTS
IMMUNITY FROM PUNISHMENT TO US OFFICERS

[This report gives in full the article published in the 8 September issue of the Prague daily, Prace.]

P'yongyang, 7 September (CTK) -- The Hsin-hua News Agency of China has published an order issued by the Political Bureau of the Korean People's Army, granting immunity from prosecution or punishment to 25 members of the US Air Force who participated in BW against the Korean people.

The US Air Force officers are Colonels Schwable, Evans, and Mahurin; Major Bley and Captain Osburn; First Lieutenants Quinn, Enoch, Kniss, Lurie, Hitchens, Penny, Hammett, Gunnoe, Martin, Ellis, Warren, Simonsen, Fornes, and Brooks; and Second Lieutenants Stahl, O'Neal, Woss, Kerr, Lull, and Frick.

Among other things the order states the following: The Political Bureau of the Korean People's Army, after investigating the declarations and other evidence, declares that these declarations and proofs verify that Schwable and the others actually committed the crime of conducting BW on the territory of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. However, in view of the fact that they acted on the orders of their superiors and therefore do not bear the chief responsibility for the planning and instigating of BW, and in view of the fact that they admitted their crimes, the Political Bureau has decided, with the consent of the Commander in Chief of the People's Army, that Schwable and the others should receive clemency and be granted immunity from prosecution or punishment.

The order was signed by Lt Gen Ch'oe Yon-hak, Chief of the Political Bureau of the Korean People's Army.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. 00 F-229

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(This report surveys non-Communist press and radio comment on the Communist charges that America uses bacterial weapon; this comment does not necessarily reflect public opinion in the pertinent areas. This report is based, in part, on a survey prepared in response to a special request.)

From the small volume of comment available it does not appear that non-Communist sources place much credence in Communist charges that the Americans are using bacterial weapons in Korea and China. In most cases there is no discussion of the validity of the charges; they are explicitly or implicitly dismissed as mere propaganda. In three cases there are noncommittal calls for investigation of the charges. Other references report epidemics in Northern Asia but do not discuss the charges one way or the other. Thus, no non-Communist source comes out directly in support of the charges.

This relative lack of comment on the BW charges suggests a lack of interest that could be a consequence of disbelief. This lack of interest can also be inferred from the speculative comments noted above. Melbourne, for example, indicates concern over possible illness among Australian troops and the West Berlin TAG expresses concern over the rumor that the Soviet Union is sending German doctors to plague-infested areas; but these expressions of concern contain no hint of belief in the charges that the Americans are using BW.

Outright Rejection: More than half of the references to the BW charges reject them outright. A Radio Paris commentator notes the soporific effect of Soviet propaganda and the Netherlands radio, French Union newspapers in Saigon, Austrian sources, and spokesmen for the Iranian and ROK governments also reject the charges. Paris ridicules the charges while the Saigon papers and Radio Pusan denounce them as "vile propaganda." Radio Teheran quotes a Government spokesman as declaring that the idea of American use of biological weapons is "unthinkable" while Hilversum suggests that the charges are a propaganda device intended to delay the truce talks. Sources in Taipei describe the charges as a "pretext," but do not elaborate. On 5 April Stockholm quotes a Swedish bacteriologist as classifying the charges as "highly improbable."

A flurry of comments from Austria classifies the charges as mere propaganda. Two Viennese newspapers and Radio Graz denounce Professor Brandweiner, the Austrian chairman of the IADL Commission which "investigated" the charges, for participating in such a propaganda trick and for distorting the facts. DAS KLEINE VOLKSBLATT, (People's Party) claims that "there is only one thing true about alleged U.S. germ warfare--the epidemics" themselves, while DIE PRESSE (independent) speaks of the "primitive nature of 'Communist germ propaganda.'"

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Calls for Investigation: The Paris LE MONDE, the HINDUSTAN STANDARD, and a spokesman of the Indonesian Government call for investigation of the charges. LE MONDE sees Communist acceptance of an investigation as proof of sincerity, and the HINDUSTAN STANDARD believes that the seriousness of the charges makes immediate investigation imperative. It nominates the Red Cross for this task, while Jakarta quotes a Government spokesman as calling for investigation either by an international group or by representatives of neutral nations, should the Communists reject international investigation.

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